Women's Secretariat

For the fiscal year ended
March 31, 1990

Minister
Honourable Patricia A. Smith

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Minister's Letter of Transmittal

Saskatchewan

1914 Hamilton Street
Regina, Canada
S4P 4V4

Saskatchewan Women's Secretariat

Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk, O.C., S.O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of
Saskatchewan
Government House
Regina, Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Saskatchewan Women's Secretariat for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Smith
Minister Responsible for
the Status of Women

Secretary's Letter of Transmittal

Saskatchewan

1914 Hamilton Street
Regina, Canada
S4P 4V4

Saskatchewan Women's Secretariat

The Honourable Patricia A. Smith
Minister Responsible for
the Status of Women
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan

Madam:

I have the honour of submitting the annual report of the Saskatchewan Women's Secretariat for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Meier
Secretary

Role of the Women's Secretariat

Introduction

The Women's Secretariat works to integrate women's concerns into the mainstream of government planning and policy development. It provides policy development, research support, public awareness and co-ordination of government policies, programs and activities relating to the status of women. Formerly the Women's Directorate in Human Resources, Labour and Employment, it was established as a separate agency on October 3, 1989 under the name of the Women's Secretariat.

Co-ordination, Consultation and Inter-Departmental Liaison

In 1989-90, the Women's Secretariat participated on several inter-departmental committees in areas such as family policy, family violence, child sexual abuse, balancing work and family responsibilities, and career education.

The Secretariat was involved in joint projects with other departments and organizations. These included the development of career awareness projects with Saskatchewan Education and the co-ordination of a workshop on Work and Family Life for the national "Symposium About Families". The Secretariat also assisted Justice in its consultations on the proposed changes to The Family Maintenance Act and The Children's Law Act.

The Women's Secretariat chaired an interdepartmental working committee, which developed a government strategy on work and family responsibilities. This strategy was tabled at the First Ministers' Conference in November, 1989.

Inter-Governmental Liaison

As the representative for Saskatchewan, the Secretariat attended the federal/provincial/territorial meetings of senior officials for the Status of Women, and provided advice and support materials for a meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women. Major issues were: Work and Family Responsibilities Strategy; a progress report on "Towards a Labour Force Strategy: A Framework for Training for Women"; reproductive health; Aboriginal women and economic development; and the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Report of the Collaborative Action Working Group on Counselling. The Secretariat also attended a meeting of the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation (CAALL) Sub-Committee on Women and Employment.

Research and Development

The Women's Secretariat conducted ongoing research and statistical analysis on the status of women to support government-wide policy development and decision-making. Issues included economic development for Native women, family law changes, wage gap, family policy, rural child care, and women and aging.

Support to the Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council

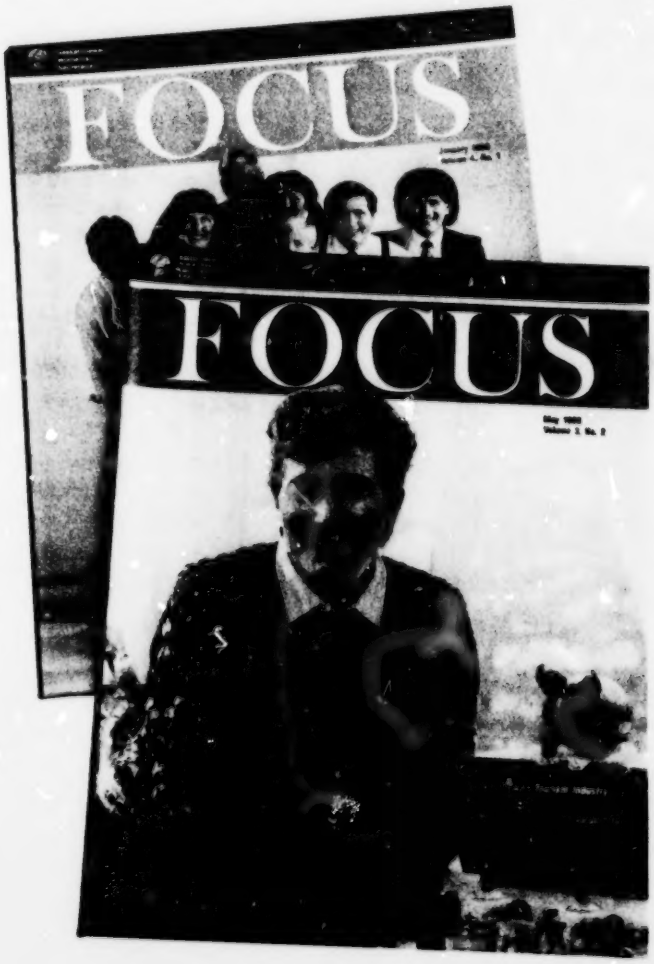
The Advisory Council, a group of private citizens appointed by the provincial government, provided government with input and recommendations on issues related to the status of women in Saskatchewan.

The Women's Secretariat provided administrative and research support to the Advisory Council on a number of issues, including services available to women in the province, women on boards and commissions, the wage gap and family law.

Public Awareness and Information

The Women's Secretariat published "FOCUS" magazine, which was distributed to over 7,000 individual women and organizations throughout the province. This publication, through information articles and interview profiles, assists in raising awareness and understanding on issues affecting women in Saskatchewan. In 1989-90, "FOCUS" highlighted women in the tourism and hospitality industry, as well as the diversity of Saskatchewan families.

The Secretariat responded to ongoing requests for information. Requests varied from statistical data and issue clarification to program and service referrals. "Into Employment - A Handbook for Women" was also distributed to individuals, organizations and classrooms.

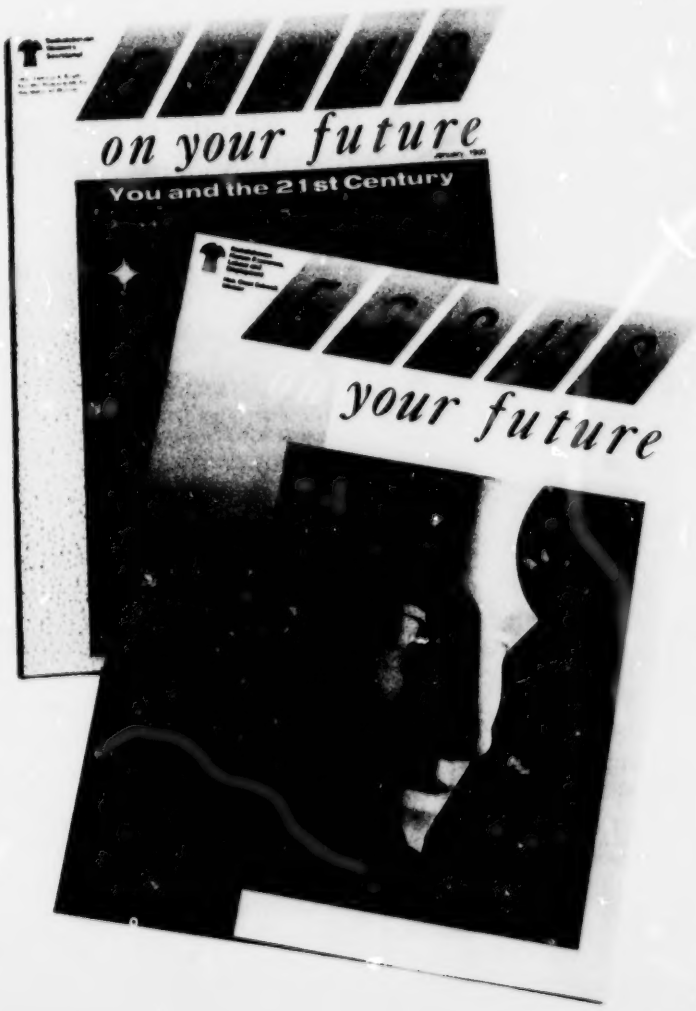


Education

The Women's Secretariat made presentations to elementary, high school and university students on career preparation, the labour market, job search techniques, resume development and interview skills. The Secretariat actively participated on the Student and Career Development Curriculum Advisory Committee to the Minister of Education and the Provincial Co-ordinating Committee on Counselling and Career Development.

"Focus on Your Future," a magazine for high school students, was published in May, 1989 and January, 1990. Themes included career awareness and a futuristic look at work and education in the 21st century.

The Secretariat was also involved in the production of an 8-minute multi-image presentation on career preparation for high school students. This "music video" was designed to complement the "Focus on Your Future" magazine and Saskatchewan Education's career booklet "Design Your Future."



Women in the Public Service

As part of the government's ongoing commitment to employment fairness initiatives, the Women's Secretariat continued to organize a noon hour luncheon series. The luncheon and guest speaker formats were co-ordinated by a Noon Hour Luncheon Series Committee, comprised of women from across government.

An impressive list of guest speakers shared their views and experiences on issues of interest to women in the provincial government. Speakers included the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, the 1988 Recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the 1988 Recipient of the Consumer Award of Merit, and a panel of senior government women who discussed their challenges in the civil service.

The Women's Secretariat also presented employee orientation seminars to Human Resources, Labour and Employment staff on the government's employment fairness initiatives.

Noon Hour Luncheon

Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council

The members of the Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council are appointed by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women from varying fields of expertise and geographic regions, reflecting the wide range of views and diversity of Saskatchewan.

The Council's mandate is to offer independent advice and recommendations for change on issues relating to women.

The Council has focused on a number of issues over this past year. Family violence, work and family responsibilities, women in leadership, the wage gap and the judicial system were areas under discussion.

As part of their involvement with people throughout the province, Council members have attended various conferences including Women and Mental Health; Working Together: 1989 National Forum on Family Violence; National Symposium about Families; Building Bridges - Prairie West Regional Women's Conference; and the Role of the Family in Crime Prevention.

Council members also participated in the Joint Chairpersons' and Presidents' Meetings of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women and the Canadian Advisory Council's National Symposium on Women's Place in the Economy. These interactions and information sharing opportunities were helpful in assisting the Advisory Council to examine provincial issues, discuss concerns with the Minister and make recommendations for program and policy change.

Mary Muir, Chairperson
Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council

Women on Boards, Councils and Commissions

The Saskatchewan Women's Advisory Council encourages women to be involved in the decision-making process of Saskatchewan by becoming active on government boards, councils and commissions. These boards provide citizen input, administer regulations and/or make recommendations to government, function under a mandate determined by legislation and are usually responsible to a cabinet minister.

To promote women's participation on boards, councils and commissions, the Council produced an information brochure, "Partners for the Future." This publication was distributed throughout the province and was very well received. The Advisory Council has also established a Registry, which contains the biographical summaries of women interested in participating on boards, councils and commissions. As vacancies arise, lists of candidates are forwarded for consideration.

Hon. Patricia A. Smith
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Women on Saskatchewan Boards, Councils and Commissions